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NORTH VIETNAM

Impressions of Thanh Hoa

Hanoi in English to Southeast Asia 1530 GMT 10 Aug 72 B

[Text] Here is the news from the "Voice of Vietnam." Clark and his visit to the Province of Thanh Hoa about [words indistinct] miles from Hanoi, from (?3) August to 9 August. Here is the lawyer Ramsey Clark to give you his impressions [words indistinct]: [follows recorded male voice with American accent]

The (?first) impression that I get from this trip, I believe, is the enormous contrast between peace and war. Umm, last night and yesterday afternoon and this morning we (?spent) in a beautiful and peaceful little village of 2,900 human beings. The village has been there for more than 500 years; they call it (?Phu Min). You can see the great progress that people are making there, you can see the pride that they have and the quality of their lives. You can see the health of the children and the love of the families and the productivity of the land, the growth of education and opportunity.

Here I am, a wonderful experience for me to be able to spend that time in the village. We spent it in six or seven different homes of families and were received with great friendship and generosity on, on each occasion. Then this morning, in the sharpest contrast, we, we saw what war is, and what it does. We visited a hamlet, [words indistinct]. This hamlet had been heavily bombed, 23 of the people killed, their plantations bombed. They were beginning to rebuild and the dikes were lined with people and carts bringing lumber and other building materials in to rebuild homes.

You can see not only the devastation to the land and the homes, the farm areas and the rice paddies, but you can see the suffering etched in the faces of the people. You can see how they wondered how this could possibly happen to their peaceful village. But suddenly, at 3:00 am one morning, without any warning and by people they never knew and will never know, umm, be bombed into oblivion.

So I believe this province shows, as few others perhaps, the terrible contrast between war and peace. It also shows that the indomitable spirit of people can never be overcome. This was apparent in both villages. In the village of (?Phu Min) which had not been bombed we could see all the enormous energy and [words indistinct] the people to build a land 10 times more beautiful, but among those in the village that had been bombed we were met by two young sons who were orphaned by the bombing--one 16 years old, one 15 years old--we could find this fierce determination to carry on until there is a time of freedom and independence acceptable to the people. [Words indistinct] been a reality of what you've seen, you've a much deeper meaning to what you believe, and umm, to come from reading, seeing pictures and hearing about [words indistinct] from others who've been there, one has to be deeply impressed with the people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

I have wondered, umm, for many years, what it was that (?created) such a [words indistinct] spirit, determination to prevail. What, umm, what it was that, that drives the people of this country through all these long [words indistinct] hard tortured years of war, and how, in spite of the suffering and hardship and death, they seem to grow stronger and more determined.

Having been here and visited in a number of the provinces and seen the major cities [words indistinct] have travelled over a thousand kilometers, umm, between cities and villages by now; walked the streets of the cities alone and with others; walked the pathways of the villages and along the dikes and canals alone and with others; watched the people and talked with them to the extent that I've been [words indistinct] speak English

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I have to, umm, believe that, umm, the determination of the people; (?strengthens) the people and comes from their conviction that this land and these people are served by their government; that there is justice and equality here. My experience tells me that, umm, [words indistinct] told (?Aristotle) that the chief and universal cause of the revolutionary impulse is the desire for equality. You see no internal conflict in this country. I've seen none. You feel unity in spirit. I doubt very seriously that I could walk in safety in Saigon or the cities and villages of South Vietnam, as I have here, because of, umm, the division, the confusion and the lack of faith and belief there. And I think the people here have seen progress in a short period of time. I had a talk with, umm, an older man and a woman [words indistinct] who (?tried) to describe how much better the (?kids) of her children were being educated than they were as children. How much better health service in the cities and villages are, than they were at the time that the older people were young. The older people, people my age, and [words indistinct] had known hunger in the past, uncertainty about the future and the children of this time have this paradise [words indistinct], so I guess, it seems to me that, umm, the people here believe. They believe in the righteousness of their purpose and that [words indistinct]. [male voice with American accent fades out as announcer's voice returns]

You have just listened to impressions given by U.S. lawyer Ramsey Clark after his visit to the bombed areas in Thanh Hoa Province.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ON U.S. AIR STRIKES

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1442 GMT 15 Aug 72 B

[Text] On 15 August, the spokesman of our Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the U.S. imperialists for sending aircraft to conduct extermination bombings against Thanh Hoa municipality and to barbarously attack many populous areas in North Vietnam. The text of the statement reads:

On 14 August 1972, the U.S. imperialists sent aircraft to carry out extermination bombings and shellings against Thanh Hoa municipality and to drop demolition and steel pellet bombs on many wards, streets and the outskirts of the municipality. On the same day, U.S. aircraft also barbarously bombed and shelled suburban areas of Haiphong port and Vinh city, as well as many densely populated areas in Hai Hung, Thai Binh, Nam Ha, Minh Binh, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh provinces and the Vinh Linh area. U.S. B-52's bombed a number of localities in Quang Binh Province while U.S. warships bombed and shelled a number of coastal areas in Nam Ha Province. U.S. bombs and rockets have killed and wounded many innocent people, the majority of whom are old men, women, and children, and have destroyed many houses and property of the local people.

The above criminal acts of the Nixon administration have grossly encroached on DRV sovereignty and security, brazenly violated the pledge made by the U.S. Government to end totally and unconditionally the bombing and shelling of North Vietnam, and constitute an impudent challenge to world public opinion and U.S. opinion. These criminal acts have further exposed the extremely warlike cruel, and aggressive features of U.S. imperialism.

The DRV Foreign Ministry strongly denounces and sternly condemns the above wild war acts of the Nixon administration and resolutely demands that it immediately end the bombing and shelling of North Vietnam, the mining and blockade of the ports, and all other actions encroaching on DRV sovereignty and security.